

REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 13, and 15-18 will have been amended and Claims 5, 7, 11, and 14 will have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 13, and 15-18 remain pending in the present application. By the present Amendment and Remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections and objections have been overcome, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Summary of the Office Action

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11 and 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Traversal of Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11 and 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,964,327 to Chang et al. (hereinafter "CHANG").

The Examiner submits that CHANG discloses all the elements of the claims. In particular, the Examiner states "Chang et al. discloses a mechanism for coupling first and second structure comprising a first member (22), a second member (24), a contactor (38), means for generating a levitation force (Abstract, lines 5-12), a resilient member (38), means for bringing the first and second members into contact (Col. 3, lines 19-25), a surface/vibrating body (82), a vibrator/piezo electric device (54), an alternating signal, a stationary wave (53), a non-contact state, a driving source (10), and a control circuit (23, 25, 26, 28, 34)."

Independent Claims 1 and 13

Applicant's independent Claims 1 and 13 as amended recites, *inter alia*, ... a control circuit coupled to the electrical signal source and controlling the electrical signal supplied to the piezoelectric device so as to generate a levitation force, wherein the control circuit controls the

electrical signal so that a frictional force generated between the first member and the second member continuously changes by the levitation force.

On the other hand, CHANG does not teach the aforementioned features. CHANG discloses the state of the first and second members (22 and 24) separated and the state of the first and second members in contact. However, CHANG does not disclose controlling the electrical signals supplied to the piezoelectric device so that the frictional force generated between the first and second members continuously changes by the levitation force.

For the foregoing reasons, because CHANG fails to disclose the above-noted features of the present invention, Applicant submits that CHANG fails to disclose each and every feature of the present invention as recited in Independent Claims 1 and 13.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is improper and should be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, and 15-18

Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, and 15-18 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent Claims 1 and 13 and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of dependent Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, and 15-18 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 5, 7, 11, and 14

Applicant has canceled Claims 5, 7, 11, and 14. As such, Applicant submits that the rejection with respect to these claims is now moot and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Application is Allowable

Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim on the present invention meets the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate allowance of such claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's invention as recited in Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 13, and 15-18. The applied reference of record has been discussed and distinguished, while the significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 502456.

Respectfully submitted,



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